gratification of the bol seeks development of mind; body and spirit. In the evolution which results from this aspiration, there is the struggle'in which "the whole creation groans together until now." Upward and onward toward the goal of perfec, tion, there is progress broken by the defeats of individuals, families, and

In one sense the struggle seems hopeless. Human frailty affects the whole race of mankind. The evils which have been shall be. Injustice, malice, pride, envy, murder, lust and all ungodliness shall not be laid aside with the old year; but shall gather a new harvest in the months to come.

The good and the bad shall alike be borne to the grave, and Satan shall sow his tares amid the wheat in new and more vigorous soil.

It is evident that single individuals of the race cannot attain perfection. The salvation of the world must be reached through the development of the whole human race.

"After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well," Rest is the heaven of the soul; but there can be no rest where there is decay. Here wastes consume the body, rust or wear destroys the mind, while the soul wages eternal battle with its mortal enemy.

good, the fair and the bad, and such a It is well to know the condition of classification would furnish all needed life and of progress. Rest there may be, but it an armed neutrality, or the hard-earned rest of the battle-field.

We reach then the final conclusion that all good is the result of constant, unremitting effort; that the cessation of effort means loss, retrogression, and that earth has no immortality for individuals, families or nations.

Apply this principle-Individual growth, village improvement, national progress, is the result of struggle. Like the waves of the sea beating upon the shore, there is movement forward and backward, and with it the ebb or flood-tide. Liberty cannot be secured without effort, or kept without sacrifice. Property accumulates and vanishes with equal rapidity. Towns have their youth, manhood and old age like individuals. The rise and fall of nations is a question largely of time. Great battles decide for actisions determine the future of individuals, but habits of sobriety, industry, and virtue impart all the permanence there can be to the great and the good in the world. In the end there must come the final defeat of death, the surrender of property, while the earth, with all the beauties added by the hand of man, shall pass away. What profit hath he that worketh

that wherein he laboreth?' A reasonable portion of the good things of life is the fruit of industry; a sound mind in a sound body is the reward of self-restraint; these with a good conscience toward God and man secure peace and contentment.

Beyond this, the new year tells of the growth of flowers and grasses, the budding of trees, the singing of birds in a new land, where struggles shall cease; pain, sorrow, and death shall be known no more, and treasures shall be beyond the influence of moth or rust to corrupt or thieves to break through and steal.

The new year shall be ushered in with joy: but its slowly passing hours shall witness many a struggle, defeat, and victory. May it also witness an advance in power, comfort and right-

The Grading System in Schools.

At the recent meeting of the Princeton Alumni in New York, Professor West announced that the old grading system had been abolished. When we were at Princeton, students were distinguished from one another, as regards their intellectual attainments, by tenths of one per cent. We have often wondered what particular bit of knowledge-mathematics for instance, the student who received 99.7 possesed over and above the one who receiv ed 99.6. And we also marveled at that acuteness of mentel vision, which enabled a professor to detect this infinite small quantity of knowledge. Still more wonderful must be that faculty which can estimate the relative worth of different answers expressed in different language by words which cover from ten to forty pages, and be sure of the result within the tenth of one per cent.

The fact is the results above indicated are absolutely unattainable. There never was a man born, who could read over two examination papers, and arrive at an estimate of excellence to such a degree of nicety, as is represented by figures after a decimal point. And the worst of it is, those who do most of it are best aware that it is a rank humbug. We have viewed this as euquette. tlemen," "Want monial Manners' to be Happy thou Do You Dot" "A Husband and

ports, were devoted to teaching, there

would be fewer fagged out and broken

upon the teacher, coming as it does in

large part, at the end of the week, the

year, at which times the mind is

amount of grading is without doubt

proper or rather necessary. Parents

have a right to know what sort of

progress their children are making,

and it is of the greatest assistance to

teachers to have this progress watched

over at home. Fortunately it is not

difficult to obtain, tabulate and fur-

nish the needed information. Neither

great labor, learning or acuteness

divide all pupils into three classes,

be conveyed in a mathematical report.

pleasure, and less of a grind, and the

brighter faces, better tempers and

t is stated that Mr Gladstone kon a book dealing with Homer-

be press of Macmillan, entitled

It is said that the author of

'Madame Tabby's Establishment," a

children's book lately published by Macmillan & Co., is a daughter of Mr.

Thomas Hughes, of 'Tom Brown' fame.

Locksley Hall Sixty Years After,

published abroad on the 14th inst.

mise of May," produced in London

so e years ago. The greatest interest

in the volume centres in "Locksley

Hall," in which the poet reviews the

life of mankind during the past 60 years, and comes to the conclusion

that its boasted progress is of doubt-

ful credit to the world in general and

to England in particular. A cynical

vein of denunciation of democratic

opinions and aspirations is said to run

throughout the poem, in marked con-

trast with the spirit of the "Locksley

-A very dainty piece of book-mak-

ing is Mrs. Celia Thaxter's Cruise of

the Mystery, and Other Poems, and

many of the songs are worthy of their

setting. But Mrs. Thaxter is a sea-

bird, and when she tries her wings in-

landshe is manifestly out of her eleme-

ment and talks prose, as in this sample

vers ewhich might be many times match

"Then I remembered the blessing

ed from the pages of her little book:

So sweet, O friend, so near!

The joy beyond all expressing,— To-day you would be here."

This, however, and much worse, may

well be forgiven the author of that

grand incomparable poem, "The Wreck

of the Pocahontas," by portrayal of the

power of conscience, as hinted in the

Nor all the drowsy sirups of the world, Shall medicine thee to that sweet sleep

_For Love's Sake, Poems of Faith

and Comfort, by Margaret J. Preston,

fulfils all conditions that are demanded

by sacred poetry, with out neglecting

any of the conditions that are demand-

ed by poetry pure and simple. In this

collection are poems as well as exam-

ples of religious verse, and as such

should be read by all lovers of Ameri-

can song. Mrs. Preston is surpassed

by none of her sisterhood in the pos-

session of poetic powers, in the respect

with which she approaches and exer-

cises her art, and in the sincerity and

and dignity of her work, which is al-

-The author of "How to' be Hap-

by Though Married" has just publish

ed another book of a similar nature

though with the less enticing title

"Manners Makyth the Man." It is

the sort of volume we expect from

Samuel Smiles periodically, being

made up of little stories more or less

familiar and biographical sketches of men who have overceme great obsta-

cles and attained glory, all connected

with a shortly cut paragraph contain-

ing morals and homely truths.

glimpse at some of the headings of the

chapters will convince one that "Man-

ners Makyth the Man" is not a book

ways finished and impressive.

choice of the opening motto;-

Which thou ow dst yesterday.

Hall " of the poet's youth.

-Tennyson's new book of poems,

About Money and Other Things."

of them.

ready fatigued.

Mutual Improvement Society "Vain- glorious Housekeeping" are among the most unique. The author's talents appear to be chiefly for selecting startling titles for his books and ame, patience, and chapters and for filling the latter with so say nothing of money, happily worded sermons that will post and does nobody any good should be repel by their too lofty tone the err abolished! If the energy which is readers for whom they are intended consumed by the teachers in grinding nor fail at the same time to entertain out these laborious and useless re-

-The first number of Scribner Magazine, with its studiously plain cover but appetizing contents, is an teachers, and brighter and better inagreeable suggestion of what is to formed scholers. The preparation of come. The typograph, or possibly it the graded reports is particularly hard is the paper, is not quite all that was expected but such incidentals cannot always be regulated at the outset, and everybody knows that the Scribners end of the term and the end of the will not tolerate anything else than the best. The cuts are intended to illustrate the text, and are not mere embelishments. The literary contents The system which is now being purinclude contributions from E. B. sued at Princeton, and which has been Washburne, H. C. Bunner, Austin copied by other colleges, after in-Dobson, Francis A. Walker and other quiries as to the working of it there, noted writers. This magazine sells for 25 cents per copy, which is 10 cents is to divide each class into a number less than the periodicals with which of divisions, according to the relative it will compete. merits of the students. A certain

-Lippincott's Magazine for January is almost prismatic in the various little glints and gleams of light which it throws on some of the people and the opinions of today. The title page is not the least amusing, printed-as name, and mis nound of "Sinfire," in large black type, and all the other. tributers and their cnotributions in more modest characters-much as a play bill presents a "star" and his coadjutos. This, however, was probably would be demanded-for instance, to not the publishers' thought, but rather the desire to attract the anget and which should contain respectively the

of the public to the name of Mr information or all at least that could Should this system be adopted in our schools, what a slight labor would it be for a teacher, at the end of the week, to write up her reports of the standing of each pupil, from memory, assisted perhaps by a few memoranda. been incident. Then teaching would be more of a

pupils could not fail to derive much benefit from the clearer head, the

stronger bodies of those having charge DANIEL FROHMAN

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